

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02 OMB-01

SWF-02 XMB-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 IGA-02 /184 W

----- 128951

R 011430Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4033

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF PRINCE

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRD NU

SUBJ: SUMMARY REPORT OF AMBASSADOR'S EBERLE'S VISIT TO BRIDGETOWN

REF: BRIDGETOWN 763

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF RESULTS APRIL 26-29 VISIT TO BRIDGETOWN FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH CARICOM COUNTRIES BY AMBASSADOR EBERLE AND HIS DELEGATION DRAFTED BY AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN AND CLEARED BY DELEGATION.

2. EBERLE MISSION DISCUSSED BROAD RANGE OF TRADE ISSUES WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICIALS FROM CARICOM NATIONS, HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

DURING THREE HOUR SESSION ON APRIL 27. MEETING SERVED TO EDUCATE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES ON U.S. TRADE LEGISLATION AND PRACTICES AND TO DEMONSTRATE HOW TRADE REFORM ACT (TRA) PRESENTS UNIQUE POSSIBILITIES FOR CARIBBEAN LDC'S TO HELP THEIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH BROADENED TRADE OPPORTUNITIES. MEETING ALSO PROVIDED CHANCE FOR CARIBBEANS TO VOICE THEIR CONCERNS ON U.S. POLICIES RE TEXTILES, SUGAR, RUM, U.S. DUTY-FREE EXEMPTION, AND U.S. COUNTERVAILING DUTY LAW. ON GSP REGIONAL MEMBERS WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN RULES OF ORIGIN AND COMPETITIVE NEED FORMULA. AMB EBERLE URGED PARTICIPANTS TO SUBMIT BY END OF JUNE LISTS OF PRODUCTS WITH PRIORITIES FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION ON U.S. GSP. EBERLE'S GENERAL THEME WAS THAT CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WERE NECESSARY FOR PRODUCTIVE TRADE RELATIONSHIP ON WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS TO PREVENT SMALL PROBLEMS FROM DEVELOPING INTO BIGGER ISSUES. HE ALSO ASSURED CARIBBEAN STATES THAT US WOULD CONTINUE TO ENFORCE

ITS TRADE LAWS IN EVEN-HANDED, CONSISTENT FASHION AND THAT RECORD SHOWED THAT U.S. TOOK THEIR INPUT INTO ACCOUNT IN ENFORCING USG TRADE RESTRICTIONS. EBERLE SAID USG GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TO CARIBBEAN REQUESTS FOR LOWER US DUTIES ON RUM AND THAT USG WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER RUM AS SEPARATE ITEM FOR MTN ALTHOUGH WE DO HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT PUERTO RICAN INTERESTS. ON SUGAR, HE SUGGESTED CARIBBEAN PRODUCERS STAY IN TOUCH WITH US CONGRESS ON QUOTA SIZE. ON SHORT SUPPLY, AMB EBERLE POINTED OUT THAT USG SAW INFLATION AS WORLD'S NUMBER ONE PROBLEM, HE EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO WORK TOWARDS DEVISING SYSTEM TO COPE WITH PRESENT PROBLEMS IN WHEAT MARKET. HE SUGGESTED THAT LONG TERM PURCHASE CONTRACTS FOR WHEAT AND OTHER COMMODITIES MAY BE BETTER THAN SPOT PURCHASES, ESPECIALLY IN TIMES OF SHORTAGES AND RISING PRICES.

3. MISSION'S PRINCIPALS ALSO ATTENDED LUNCHEON FOR CARICOM SECGEN MINISTERS AND HAITIAN/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC DELEGATES AND LARGE EVENING RECEPTION FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS BOTH HOSTED BY AMB DONOVAN. REGIONAL PARTICIPANTS IN LUNCHEON WERE CARICOM SECGEN WILLIAM DEMAS; GOJ TRADE MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON; GUYANA MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT KENNETH KING; GOB TRADE MINISTER BRANFORD TAITT AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITIAN DELEGATES.

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4. EBERLE'S VISIT FOLLOWS ON HEELS OF TWO DAYS OF CARIFTA/ CARICOM COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING WHICH FORMALLY TERMINATED LOOSER CARIFTA AND ESTABLISHED AN EXPANDED, MORE FAR REACHING CARICOM. DESPITE LAST MINUTE DECISION TO HOLD REGIONAL MEETING WITH MISSION AT TECHNICAL LEVEL, REGIONAL PARTICIPANTS WERE WELL VERSED ON TRADE ISSUES AND ALL INVOLVED SEEMED TO FEEL MEETING WAS INFORMATIVE AND PRODUCTIVE.

5. EMBASSY HAS NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS FULLY IMPACT
OF EBERELE MISSION. OUR INITIAL REACTION IS THAT VISIT PROVIDED
USG WITH MUCH AMMUNITION TO COUNTER FREQUENTLY HEARD CHARGE
THAT US NEGLECTS SMALL CARIBBEAN STATES AND HAS LITTLE REAL CONCERN
FOR THEIR ECONOMIC AND TRADE PROBLEMS. MISSION MEMBERS' CON-
VINCING PRESENTATION OF EXTENT OF USG'S EVEN-HANDED ENFORCEMENT
OF ITS TRADE LEGISLATION AND RESTRAINT SHOWN BY U.S. IN DEALING WITH
LDC'S WAS VERY FAVORABLY RECEIVED BY ALL PRESENT.
SHELTON

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